GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1752
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
USE OF AMBIGUOUS WORDS TO DENOTE EXPIRY DATES
Suklabaidya Shri Lalit Mohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain manufacturing firms use ambiguous words on the eatable items to denote expiry date of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the firms and their products; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955 contains the provision regarding the requirement of mentioning the expiry date on the package of aspartame, infant milk substitute and infant foods only. As regards other food articles, the rules provide for mentioning "the best before date" only. None of the State Governments / UT Administrations implementing PFA Act and PFA Rules has reported the use of ambiguous words on the package of food by any manufacturing firm to denote expiry date, through their annual reports or otherwise.

(c) Does not arise.